

LISTERA OVATA (L.) R. BR. IN THE BRUCE PENINSULA, ONTARIO. — On July 11, 1968, Miss Bessie Plunkett of Port Arthur, Ontario with the senior author and a group from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists summer camp discovered a colony of about 15 orchids near the village of Red Bay in the Bruce Peninsula, Ontario. The plants were recognized as belonging to the genus *Listera*, but were obviously not one of the five species found in northeastern North America.

A single specimen was collected on July 17, 1968 by J. F. Alex of the University of Guelph with A. G. Thomas and C. R. Skelton. (*J. F. Alex et al* 3090 (OAC) Ontario, Bruce County, Albemarle Township, Red Bay P.O. 17 July, 1968). Alex tentatively identified the specimen as *Listera ovata* (L.) R. Br. and forwarded it to the Plant Research Institute of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. It was examined and compared with European material by C. Frankton, B. Boivin and E. W. Greenwood who confirmed Alex's identification.

F. W. Case, Jr. of Saginaw, Michigan and L. A. Garay of the Botanical Museum of Harvard University examined colored photographs and drawings of the Red Bay plants and suggested that they represented *L. ovata*.

The orchids were found in a partly open, recently cleared area on the borders of a cedar (*Thuja occidentalis* L.) swamp. The soil is a sandy gravel covered with a few inches of humus and overlying dolomite. One of the plants was 60 cm in height and bore 52 blooms; six were over 40 cm high and the remainder about 30 cm. Approximately 20 plants reappeared in the same location in June, 1969 and several more specimens were discovered under eastern white cedars and black ash about 500 yards east of the original find.

The field notes by J. F. Alex on the specimen label read, in part: "about 15 plants scattered through 20 m area recently cleared of brush, deadfall, etc. under cedar with ash, poplar and birch. Soil moderately drained organic sand. Plants ranged in height 38-61 cm".



Butcher (1961) says that "it is a common plant of grassland and woods on basic soils throughout the British Isles". Summerhayes (1951) states, ". . . . the common twayblade is probably commoner and more widely distributed in this country (Britain) than any other kind of orchid". He gives its range as "throughout Europe from northern Scandinavia and Russia southwards to the Mediterranean, . . . while eastwards it extends through Siberia to the region of Lake Baikal and through Asia Minor to the western end of the Himalayan Range".

We are not aware of any previous occurrence of this twayblade having been recorded from North America and can only guess as to how it may have found its way to the Bruce Peninsula. A preliminary note on this finding has been published by Elliott (1969).

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